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HOUSE MEMORIAL 6

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CREATE A TASK  
FORCE TO STUDY THE USE OF RUBBERIZED ASPHALT ON STATE ROAD  
PAVING PROJECTS.

WHEREAS, the rubber manufacturers association reports  
that, on average, one scrap tire is generated per New Mexican  
each year, which represents approximately two million tires  
requiring proper disposal annually; and

WHEREAS, the department of environment reports that  
discarded tires are found in large numbers in landfills, in  
land reclamation programs or in illegal dumps throughout New  
Mexico, and they present a disposal problem; and

WHEREAS, the department of environment reports that  
because there are no end-market processing companies in New  
Mexico that accept tires for recycling, a number of tires are

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1 sent out of state for resale, to landfills or to make tire-  
2 derived fuel; and

3 WHEREAS, the department of environment reports that the  
4 development of recycling end-markets within New Mexico would  
5 provide for sustainable environmental practice, decreased  
6 material transportation costs and local economic benefits; and

7 WHEREAS, if a certain percentage of rubberized asphalt  
8 were used in state paving projects, this would provide a market  
9 for a crumb-rubber manufacturer to locate in New Mexico, thus  
10 supplying New Mexico's recycling and solid waste facilities  
11 with a consumer for their tires; and

12 WHEREAS, the Arizona department of transportation has used  
13 crumb rubber for nineteen years in highway paving projects and  
14 has found crumb rubber to be beneficial in decreasing road  
15 maintenance, in giving road surfaces longer life spans, in  
16 reducing cracking and in reducing costs; and

17 WHEREAS, the Arizona department of transportation has  
18 found that crumb rubber works in a variety of climates and  
19 reduces construction time periods; and

20 WHEREAS, the use of crumb rubber from recycled tires in  
21 Arizona department of transportation highway paving projects  
22 has been found to reduce noise by seventy-eight percent,  
23 allowing the potential of reducing sound wall requirements and  
24 increasing the quality of life for surrounding residents; and

25 WHEREAS, the transportation departments of the states of

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1 Arizona, Florida, California and Texas routinely specify that  
2 rubberized asphalt be used for road overlays; and

3 WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of transportation  
4 currently has a test strip of rubberized asphalt near  
5 Alamogordo on highway 54;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department  
8 of transportation be requested to create a task force to study  
9 rubberized asphalt, analyzing the costs and benefits of using  
10 rubberized asphalt from recycled tires for state paving  
11 projects; the appropriate specifications of rubberized asphalt  
12 for use on state paving projects; and the environmental impact  
13 of using rubberized asphalt; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of  
15 representatives from the department of transportation, the  
16 department of environment, the economic development department,  
17 local governments, highway paving contractors, the rubberized  
18 asphalt industry and any other individuals or organizations  
19 that the department of transportation deems appropriate to  
20 provide expertise for the purpose of analyzing the costs and  
21 benefits of using rubberized asphalt from recycled tires for  
22 state paving projects; the appropriate specifications of  
23 rubberized asphalt for use on state paving projects; and the  
24 environmental impact of using rubberized asphalt; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its

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1 findings to the appropriate interim legislative committees no  
2 later than December 1, 2009; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the secretary of transportation, the secretary  
5 of environment, the secretary of economic development and the  
6 governor.

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